

2005 EPA/ECO Community Intern Program Organization Project Descriptions

REGION 1

1) Alternatives for Community and Environment/ACE (Roxbury, MA)

ACE is a local organization working to resolve transit issues through traffic calming initiatives. The intern will research several aspects of an urban traffic situation which impacts local communities. The research will include reviewing the perimeters of the project area, how it will affect transit-dependent communities in the urban core, and the financial impacts on the transit system in the communities of concern.

2) Coalition for a Better Acre (Lowell, MA)

Coalition for a Better Acre is committed to ensuring the voice of residents is organized, heard, respected and decisive in shaping the future of the Acre neighborhood of Lowell, MA, in which 38% of the residents earn less than \$15,000/year and more than 50% are immigrants. The intern will research and compile resources on green design principles and practices for the Coalition's affordable housing rehabilitation projects. The intern will benefit from providing research that will be applied to a very real need identified by the community.

3) Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (Dorchester, MA)

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation addresses a community with one of the largest concentrations of asthma and other respiratory illnesses among children. The intern will design and facilitate research; map sites within the area that impact respiratory illnesses; research existing sites to create community education tools; and deliver workshops for a variety of stakeholders.

4) Iglesia Casa Del Perdon (Waterbury, CT)

Iglesia Casa Del Perdon is a Pentecostal congregation of 80 primarily Spanish-speaking congregants located in the South End neighborhood of Waterbury, CT. In the proposed project, the intern would research the property ownership of distressed property in the neighborhood and to identify resources which can be used to strengthen the Environmental Remediation Technician (ERT) training programs at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

5) New Haven Ecology Project, Inc. (New Haven, CT)

The New Haven Ecology Project is dedicated to cultivating healthy living habits and sustainable environmental practices for a diverse community of children, adults and families. NHEP seeks an intern to lead 10 to 15 New Haven High School members of the Summer Youth Crew in researching soil hazards and water quality testing, site remediation and community outreach. The student will learn about/gain more skills in soil and water testing, environmental justice, and environmental health hazards.

REGION 2

6) Bushwick Environment and Health Collaborative (BEHC) (Brooklyn, NY)

The is a collaborative partnership between Make the Road by Walking and the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center which focuses on the knowledge, experience and needs of our community related to the environmental health issue of asthma. The intern will research asthma rates and statistics, learn about public outreach, education, report writing, information gathering.

7) United Community Centers (Brooklyn, NY)

The United Community Centers is involved in examining the causes of the high asthma rates in our community and identifying ways to reduce the frequency of asthma attacks. The intern will participate in air quality research, community outreach, and creating and updating resources to be used for community workshops. This student will increase their knowledge of the relationship between air pollution and asthma; learn about community campaigns and its impact on the people living in the neighborhood.

REGION 3

8) Peoples Settlement Association (Wilmington, DE)

The association's primary mission is to address the environmental health concerns of the Wilmington Route 9 community. As part of the Urban Health & Environment Learning Project (UHELP), the intern will train with the organization's coordinator to research and develop materials to introduce and promote community recycling through education and outreach.

9) Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice (Baltimore, MD)

Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice (BCEJ) is partnering with several stakeholders to revitalize Middle East Baltimore. The ECO intern will aid in gathering research data on area demographics and compiling the data gathered. The intern will benefit from learning about urban renewal/revitalization and targeted community outreach methods.

10) East End Neighborhood Forum (Pittsburgh, PA)

The East End Neighborhood Forum addresses the disparate impact of environmental laws, regulations and policies on the health, economic prosperity and social impact of low-income and minority communities in Pittsburgh. By participating in the Pittsburgh Transportation Equity Project, the intern will research, analyze and use GIS to map data on environmental risks, health trends and economics. The student will benefit from improving his/her research and GIS skills and the chance to see how this kind of research directly affects an impacted community.

11) Friends of Page Valley (Stanley, VA)

Page County is a poor rural area which needs to find a way to protect its groundwater from pollution. The Friends of Page Valley field study project will enable the student to research and collect data and GPS coordinates on the wells in the community as well

as possible well water sampling. The intern will gain experience in sampling techniques and GIS mapping as well as understanding how to empower local residents with this information and these tools.

REGION 4

12) Earth Matters Tennessee (Nashville, TN)

Earth Matters Tennessee serves neighborhoods such as the Jefferson Street Community with high concentrations of inner-city youth through its “Earth Troops” initiative. The student will learn research techniques from Tennessee State University’s Geographic Information Sciences Lab in the use of GIS software to create demographic and socioeconomic maps to identify what areas of the neighborhood will benefit the most from the organization’s community improvement and youth leadership activities.

13) Harrambee House Citizens for Environmental Justice (Savannah, GA)

Harrambee House works with neighborhood youth, and nearby African American communities to increase the influence that minority communities have over public policy decisions on environmental issues. The project focuses on the environmental health issues related to the industries surrounding one of Savannah’s oldest neighborhoods. The intern will research, analyze and contribute to a report summarizing the data collected on the health impacts and concerns of this community. The student will benefit from training in research and reporting and the experience of learning about and helping a community improve their environmental health and knowledge.

14) Fresh Ministries (Jacksonville, FL)

The Fresh Ministries organization is an interdenominational community restoration leader that incubates new solutions to the problems associated with poverty for people living in distressed and underserved areas. The ECO intern will analyze scientific data relating to environmental exposure and diseases in East Jacksonville, summarizing that data on maps and charts for ease of understanding by the African American lay community. The student will gain experience in data analysis and mapping, as well as in outreach materials and education methods.

15) Jesus People Against Pollution (Columbia, MS)

Jesus People Against Pollution (JPAP) is a grassroots environmental justice organization created in response to an explosion at a local chemical plant that resulted in severe exposure of the community to toxic substances. The ECO intern will participate in the JPAP Task Force by researching the nature and extent of how environmental contamination and health-related problems affect community members. This internship will benefit the student by providing research skills and the opportunity to help community members understand the relationship between environmental exposure and disease.

16) Farmworker Association of Florida (Apopka, FL)

The Farmworker Association educates its members about environmental health issues including pesticides and field sanitation, and their environmental protection rights. Sister Gail Grimes will guide the ECO intern in a project to analyze the data collected from an EPA-funded community health survey of Lake Apopka farmworkers. This

project offers a chance to experience data analysis and training skills, as well as the possibility to help on a “creative” level.

17) West Anniston Foundation (Anniston, AL)

The West Anniston Foundation’s goal is to address the community-identified issue of the lack of health education regarding PCB exposure, prevention and related health effects in the West Anniston, Alabama community. The ECO intern will develop pre- and post-education surveys to determine if the Health Education Coalition (HEC) community leadership workshops and stakeholder mentoring projects help the community to build its capacity to assume leadership roles. The student will benefit from the chance to educate and empower the community about environmental health issues.

18) West End Revitalization Association (Mebane, NC)

Founded in 1994, the West End Revitalization Association, Inc. (WERA) services the predominantly African American residents, homeowners, and landowners of five African American communities settled by former slaves shortly after the Civil War. The ECO intern will research and design a sustainable resource network for the organization’s environmental justice research projects, community education programs and operation expenses.

19) Agricultural Resources Center (Raleigh, NC)

The Agricultural Resources Center is coordinating the Pesticide Education Project to allow community members affected by pesticide drift from nearby spraying to measure their own exposures. The intern will help design the study and will analyze and report on the data collected to help educate community members about how pesticide drift affects their air and water quality. The student will gain valuable training on research techniques from experienced professionals in the fields of medicine, epidemiology and toxicology.

REGION 5

20) Mill Creek Restoration Project (Cincinnati, OH)

The Mill Creek Restoration Project (MCRP) helps the people of color and those of Appalachian ancestry living in the low-income Mill Creek Corridor in Cincinnati build their capacity to understand and counteract the environmental problems associated with the polluted river. The ECO intern will research and analyze opportunities for residents to reuse/recycle demolition debris and selected solid waste materials into functional Mill Creek Greenway furnishings. This project offers the opportunity for the student to gain or improve their research skills and knowledge of recycling and urban restoration.

21) People for Community Recovery (Chicago, IL)

People for Community Recovery (PCR) is an environmental justice organization which provides environmental/health education and mobilizes the Southeast Chicago public housing community of Altgeld Gardens around environmental justice issues. The ECO intern will participate in researching and promoting healthy and sustainable housing, and pollution prevention techniques. The student will gain enhanced research skills and

the opportunity to empower this low-income community by helping create an industrial development strategy model.

22) Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision (Detroit, MI)

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision works to improve the environment and economy of Southwest Detroit, a primarily low-income community plagued by a range of environmental justice issues including the health consequences of stationary and mobile emissions from local heavy industry and transportation. The ECO intern would facilitate the compilation and analysis of air quality and health study data and will benefit from training with air quality experts.

REGION 6

23) People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (Austin, TX)

People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER) helps affected East Austin residents address environmental health issues such as fuel storage tank (benzene) emissions. The intern will train with the Nahui Ollin-Healthy Communities and Keepers of Guerrero Colorado river Park projects to research local models for air quality policies for school districts; coordinate adoption of air quality policy and procedures; and research best practices to help create culture- and language-appropriate resource manuals for workshops.

24) Colonias Unidas (Rio Grande City, TX)

Las Lomas, Texas, an aggregated colonias of approximately 2,000 residents in which Colonias Unidas is located, has a poverty rate of over 75% and a serious solid waste problem. The ECO associate will research and report on city and county waste management practices, help implement and evaluate the Colonias Limpias project to address community solid waste disposal issues and aid in Spanish language outreach activities. The student will gain experience and the chance to mitigate the biological consequences of unsafe waste management practices.

(25) Mothers for Clean Air (Houston, TX)

Mothers for Clean Air focuses on educating and empowering individuals to improve environmental quality in the Southeast Houston area, which is affected by air pollution from the country's largest petrochemical complex, 3 freeways, diesel trains and a local airport. The ECO associate will research the causes, response, impacts, and penalties of industrial accidents that have affected the community and develop a timeline, report and presentation to the community.

26) Louisiana Environmental Justice Project (New Orleans, LA)

The Louisiana Environmental Justice Project's NO LEAD Capacity Building Project aims to remediate homes contaminated by lead. The college intern working with this project will conduct research on lead hazards and ways to remediate or eliminate lead hazards in this community. This research conducted will include assessing what scientific processes are available for remediation, what are the best techniques to utilize in remediation, and how to apply an effective remediation. Upon conclusion of this internship, the student will produce a lead remediation fact sheet identifying the scientific process involved in having a lead free community.

REGION 7

27) Community Movement for Urban Progress (Kansas City, MO)

The Community Movement for Urban Progress (MOVE UP) provides education and intervention programs for youth and adults to revitalize the urban core through its Community Development initiatives. The intern will research and identify environmental health problems and prioritize key issues with the community; examine public policies on three key issues and research best-practice solutions; and strategize ways to communicate these findings and feedback strategies for outcome and impact analysis of the project. The student will gain or improve basic and applied research skills and a better understanding of how to involve community members in solving their problems.

REGION 8

28) FrontRange Earth Force (Denver, CO)

Located in economically challenged and ethnically diverse area of Northwest Denver, FrontRange Earth Force supports programs to help youth address environmental and public health issues and learn problem-solving skills in and for their communities. The intern will research, coordinate and help create strategies for sharing educational and research resources with educators, and to develop environmentally-based youth service projects. This research experience will add to the student's environmental health education and youth leadership training skills.

29) Bessemer Association for Neighborhood Development (Denver, CO)

The Bessemer Association for Neighborhood Development (BAND) will work with its partnering communities and other stakeholders to identify the range of environmental and public health issues facing the communities. The intern will learn research techniques on solid waste management, lead abatement, and air deposition. The student will work under the guidance of the project coordinator of BAND and its particular attention to the environmental and public health concerns of its main community partner, Hyde Park. The student will present the results of his/her research at community meetings.

30) Groundwork Denver (Denver, CO)

The mission of Groundwork Denver is to develop community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being. The intern will demonstrate research techniques to local residents on the use of the EPA Community Problem Solving Model, including the use of the web-based assessment tool and how to use it effectively.

REGION 9

31) Anahola Homesteaders Council (Anahola, Hawai'i)

The Anahola Homesteaders Council provides environmental health education to its native Hawaiian community members. Project Imua is a water-quality testing and public health project to facilitate collaboration between government, community youth and families. The intern will help analyze, compile, and report on the results of the water findings to the community. The student will participate in creating public health recommendations and will have the chance to add photography and videography into educational media resources.

32) Marin Grassroots Leadership Network (San Rafael, CA)

The Marin Grassroots Leadership Network facilitates the empowerment of underserved and underrepresented communities through education and technical assistance on leadership, advocacy, and organizational development. The intern will participate in the Environmental Health Go Getters Initiative (EHGG) cancer incidence study project including organizing educational gatherings; writing newsletter articles; and assisting with the production of multimedia educational publications. The student will gain community education experience and community organizing skills.

33) Pacoima Beautiful (Pacoima, CA)

Pacoima is an underserved, vulnerable, at risk community where 46 percent of the income of the population is below the poverty line. The children are vulnerable to lead poisoning. The intern will research information on lead poisoning via the internet and library resources to pull together information regarding the impacts. These resources will be made available so the residents can apply the findings to their local community problem.

REGION 10

34) Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (Seattle, WA)

The Community Coalition for Environmental Justice is working to identify the sources of pollution for South Seattle which is the area of Seattle most heavily impacted by environmental injustice. The intern will research sources of pollution in South Seattle using Toxics Release Inventory database and other reports/databases; create fact sheets and reports on the types/amounts of toxic releases; and participate in community presentations and meetings to increase awareness. This opportunity will provide hands-on community problem-solving experience for the student and the chance to use special pollution research tools such as the TRI.

35) Alaska Community Action on Toxics (Anchorage, AK)

The Alaska Community Action on Toxics is collaborating with the native village of Hydaburg (Haida Indians) on a pesticide research project to identify environmental health risks to tribe members caused by aerial spraying of herbicides in the rainforest where members gather food and fish. The intern will research documents and monitor the streams to identify where harmful herbicides have been applied or where there are plans to spray them, and will report on the results to the community via the website.